

October 4, 2002

Marlene H. Dortch
Commission ecretary
445 Twelfth Street SW
CY-B402
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Proceeding # 02-306

We at the Sacramento Black Chamber of Commerce strive to promote the economic vitality and quality of life within the Sacramento region, and we encourage sound public policy to help us accomplish this goal. One such policy is competition in the long distance market in the telecommunications industry.

I strongly urge the FCC to approve SBC Pacific Bell's application to provide long distance service. It is up to the FCC to enact policies and regulations that add to competition, not hinder it. In order to do this, the market must be open to competitors.

Americans in 23 other states are already benefiting from increased telecommunications competition. Our members of the Sacramento Chamber of Commerce – and Californians as a whole – should be next.

We hope you will support our long-standing mission to create a business-friendly environment and allow SBC Pacific Bell to compete for long distance.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Richard Shaw
President/CEO
SACRAMENTO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE